

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

a procedure receiving an identity of an existing XML schema;

the procedure receiving an identity of an evolved XML schema that is a version of the

existing XML schema that incorporates one or more modifications;

the procedure receiving a reference to a transformation set that indicates changes that,

when made to instance documents that conform to the existing XML schema, will

cause the instance documents to conform to the evolved XML schema;

the procedure reading data for different existing XML-schema-dependent instance

documents, wherein the existing XML-schema-dependent instance documents do

not contain tags of the existing XML schema;

based on said data, the procedure generating, for each particular existing XML-schema-

dependent instance document of the existing XML-schema-dependent instance

documents, a corresponding XML-schema-independent instance document that

contains both (a) the tags of the existing XML schema and (b) particular data from

said particular existing XML-schema-dependent document, thereby generating

XML-schema-independent instance documents that contain data from the existing

XML-schema-independent instance documents and conform to the existing XML

schema;

for each particular XML-schema-independent instance document of the XML-schema-independent instance documents, the procedure applying, to the particular XML-schema-independent instance document, one or more transformations in the transformation set, thereby producing evolved XML-schema-independent instance documents that conform to the evolved XML schema instead of the existing XML schema;

the procedure instructing the database server to execute one or more DDL statements to create evolved database structures that are based on the evolved XML schema;

and

the procedure populating one or more columns of the evolved database structures with content values of column-corresponding XML elements that are contained in the evolved XML-schema-independent instance documents.

28. (Previously Presented) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 27.
29. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
 - receiving an identity of an existing XML schema;
 - receiving an identity of an evolved XML schema that is a version of the existing XML schema that incorporates one or more modifications;
 - receiving a reference to a transformation set that indicates changes that, when made to instance documents that conform to the existing XML schema, will cause the instance documents to conform to the evolved XML schema;

reading data for different existing XML-schema-dependent instance documents, wherein the existing XML-schema-dependent instance documents do not contain tags of the existing XML schema;

based on said data, generating, for each particular existing XML-schema-dependent instance document of the existing XML-schema-dependent instance documents, a corresponding XML-schema-independent instance document that contains both (a) the tags of the existing XML schema and (b) particular data from said particular existing XML-schema-dependent document, thereby generating XML-schema-independent instance documents that contain data from the existing XML-schema-independent instance documents and conform to the existing XML schema;

for each particular XML-schema-independent instance document of the XML-schema-independent instance documents, applying, to the particular XML-schema-independent instance document, one or more transformations in the transformation set, thereby producing evolved XML-schema-independent instance documents that conform to the evolved XML schema instead of the existing XML schema;

instructing the database server to execute one or more DDL statements to create evolved database structures that are based on the evolved XML schema; and

populating one or more columns of the evolved database structures with content values of column-corresponding XML elements that are contained in the evolved XML-schema-independent instance documents.

30. (Previously Presented) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 29.